



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

August 21, 2002

DEFENDANTS INDICTED IN HEROIN OVERDOSE DEATH

United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced the indictment of Edwin Torres, 31, and Richard Scheiterle, 23, both of Orlando, for distribution of heroin, the use of which resulted in the overdose death of Sean Jason Christian, 27, also of Orlando. Torres was also charged with five additional counts of the distribution of heroin, one of which charges that the use of the heroin resulted in the non-fatal overdose of a female victim, age 23. Both Torres and Scheiterle face a minimum mandatory 20 years' imprisonment term if convicted.

According to the indictment, the death of Christian occurred on April 13, 2002, after using heroin that had been supplied by Torres and Scheiterle. The female victim's overdose occurred on May 13, 2002, after she used heroin that she purchased from Torres. In that case, law enforcement determined that the victim was found unconscious by a family member who was able to get her medical assistance before she died.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

U.S. Attorney Paul I. Perez said, "The charges in this case reflect the United States' continued resolve to prosecute street level heroin dealers whose poison results in a death or overdose."

The case was investigated by agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Orange County Sheriff's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Perry.